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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

of

2

Application Number 161431

Application Number	161631,273
Filing Date	07-31-2003
First Named Inventor	James Amburgey
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2726 PR

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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

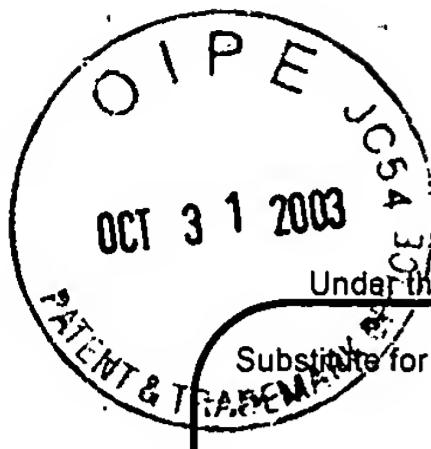
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	07 - 31 - 2003
First Named Inventor	James Amburgey
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	



28 October 2003

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am not aware of any prior use of the extended terminal subfluidization wash (ETSW) backwash method or even any similar methods with the same intended application of improving the quality of the filtrate following a backwash. Every backwash procedure terminates with by changing the backwash water flow rate from a fluidizing flow rate to zero, and it is not uncommon to see one or more intermediate flows for a brief duration (e.g., 30-60 seconds each) to avoid switching pumps from full-speed to zero while also softening the collapse of the media from a fluidized bed to a fixed bed. The duration of the ETSW step of the backwash procedure would typically last between 5 and 15 minutes at subfluidization (intermediate) wash rate that is just lower than the highest washrate employed, but the ETSW is necessarily conducted below the minimum fluidization velocity of the media.

In the enclosed information disclosure statement, I will include some background information on the overall processes of backwashing and filtration as practiced in the water treatment community. The included references will detail the problem of "filter ripening," which has been a common problem for many years and the topic of numerous research efforts. While the ETSW method can significantly reduce or even eliminate the problem of filter ripening, ETSW's lack of prior existence is evidenced by the other approaches that have been tried to reduce the impact of this problematic portion of the filtration cycle and by the failure of ETSW to be mentioned in recent literature. I will include a copy of my first conference paper regarding ETSW (June 2003), and a similar peer-reviewed paper will appear in the November or December issue of the *Journal American Water Works Association*. You can feel free to contact me via e-mail (james_amburgey@hotmail.com) should you have any questions that are beyond the scope of the materials that I have include, and I will do my best to answer them or refer you elsewhere.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Amburgey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the "y" in "Amburgey".

James E. Amburgey